

In general, this proposed rule would be extremely burdensome to licensees in the Amateur Radio Service. The over-the-counter vendors of radio equipment for that service are already under severe economic pressure and this would add to their cost of doing business.

More troubling, though, is the provision that implies that local law-enforcement officials would have access to the data collected without the judicial review of the search-warrant process. Local law-enforcement officials are NOT qualified to evaluate FCC licensing requirements or procedures. Nor are over-the-counter vendors of radio equipment, for that matter. Involving non-FCC personnel in this matter would inevitably lead to gross abuses of the rights of legitimate purchasers and Amateur Service licensees. Note that the triggering event for the involvement of local law-enforcement personnel is the mere suspicion by a store clerk that some radio transmitting equipment MAY be misused by a purchaser, nothing more.

This proposed rule-making is ill-conceived and should be rejected by the Commission.